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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

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Statement

El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA) is a non-governmental organization governed by migrant and immigrant workers from impoverished and indigenous communities in Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean States who out of necessity have emigrated to the industrialized North, and who are actively engaged in the effort to improve their working and living conditions.

CATA welcomes the thematic focus on the Millennium Declaration for the upcoming 2005 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), if achieved, would offer tremendous benefit to migrant workers worldwide, both in the countries in which they have immigrated to work, as well as in their countries of origin.

At the same time, CATA views with great concern the slow progress toward implementation of the Millennium Declaration. With this in mind, CATA submits the following recommendations to ECOSOC for its consideration during its 2005 Substantive Session:

1. **That ECOSOC develop a detailed and well-defined plan of implementation to ensure the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, and that such a plan include a strong participatory role for Civil Society.**

2. **That the Millennium Declaration be implemented within the framework of human rights, as outlined in Section V, paragraph 25.** Specifically, the Declaration states that, "We resolve therefore…To take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies."

3. **That ECOSOC encourage member States to grant to immigrant and migrant workers, including those without regular immigration status, the same rights afforded to other workers, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Conventions of the International Labour Organization.** Migrant and immigrant workers around the world are rarely afforded the same rights under the law as other workers, which creates an incentive for employers to seek out immigrants for hire, in particular those without regular status. This in turn undermines the legal rights of non-immigrant workers by forcing them into a *de facto* position of competition with the immigrant workforce.

4. **That ECOSOC encourage member States to ratify the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, in particular industrialized nations of the global North.** The treaty cannot provide meaningful benefit to migrant workers and their families until it is ratified by those industrialized States that receive the bulk of migrants worldwide.

5. **That ECOSOC encourage member States to reduce the root causes of worldwide migration by eliminating discriminatory trade and economic policies in the industrialized North.** Such discriminatory practices include domestic agricultural subsidies that disrupt local, agriculture-based economies in poor nations, and trade agreements that allow for the free flow of goods, capital, and profits across borders, but not the free flow of people (i.e. labour).